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upon, and the closing chapter deals chiefly with Matthew Arnold and Nietzsche.

The book is intended particularly for "youth of from seventeen to twenty-two years of age" and has "the mental capacity of a certain class of readers always in view". It surely will interest young people of that age, but it should also appeal to maturer readers. It contains many interesting facts that will be new to most persons, and also a number of passages that set one thinking. Many history teachers might broaden their view of the past by perusing this volume, and especially in courses in English history it should prove useful for collateral reading. In the main the author has avoided technical scientific terminology and blind allusions, but some passages assume an acquaintance with general history or with this or that particular natural science on the part of the reader.

A few specific criticisms should be made. The author follows the old and incorrect chronology for ancient Oriental history, dating Sargon of Akkad, for instance, over a thousand years too early, in 3800 B.C. As with other histories of science, the chapter on the Middle Ages is the weak point of the book. It is unfair to medieval anatomy to call Galen "the only experimental physiologist before the time of Harvey" (p. 38); unfair to the medieval popes and clergy to say that "the long and cruel war between science and Christian theology had begun" (p. 47); unfair to medieval artists and artisans to devote a chapter to Vitruvius and say never a word of Gothic architecture and the gilds of industrious and inventive freemen; unfair to medieval alchemists to affirm, "The writings that have been attributed to Geber show the advances that chemistry made through the experiments of the Arabs" (p. 51), since Berthelot has shown that these writings were really Latin works of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and superior to Arabian alchemy in scientific character. Did Gerbert attend "Arab" (p. 53) or Christian schools in Spain? The statement that Roger Bacon "transmitted in a treatise that fell under the eye of Columbus the view of Aristotle in reference to the proximity of another continent on the other side of the Atlantic" (p. 54), is misleading in more than one respect. The treatise which Columbus read was by Pierre d'Ailly, and Aristotle said nothing about a new continent, but that the distance by sea west from Spain to India was short—one argument for this being, according to Bacon, that the elephants of India and northwestern Africa are so similar that those two lands must be close enough together to receive the influence of the same constellations.

LYNN THORNDIKE.

Cotton as a World Power: a Study in the Economic Interpretation of History. By JAMES A. B. SCHERER, Ph.D., LL.D., President of Throop College of Technology. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. 1917. Pp. 452. \$2.00.)

PRESIDENT SCHERER'S idea in writing his history of cotton is found in the title which he has given his book—*Cotton as a World Power*. He seems to believe that there is a peculiar and intimate relation existing between the uses of cotton and the progress of civilization and growth of international relations. Cotton is, he says, "the world's Golden Fleece; the nations are bound together in its globe-engirdling web; so that when a modern economist concerns himself with the inter-dependence of nations, he naturally looks to cotton for his most effective illustration".

Whether cotton among fibres possesses any peculiar significance in the world's history, or is entitled to any higher rank as a civilizing force than, say, wool or flax, is perhaps a debatable subject, but in view of the numerous histories of cotton culture and cotton manufacture which have been written, President Scherer's reasons for calling this field of investigation "an unworked quarry of wealth" are not apparent. Nor can it be said that he has discovered any new and paying veins of ore. In spite of his references to researches in the Bodleian Library and the British Museum, his book contains no material drawn from new or unusual sources. All the references are to secondary authorities and most of them are to those well known to historians. It cannot even be said that the point of view from which he has approached his subject is original, or that he has given any new interpretation to his material. What he has done is to relate in a pleasing and popular style a wide array of events connected in one way or another with the history of the cotton plant.

The record begins with the discovery of cotton culture and cotton cultivation in India and the introduction of cotton fabrics into Europe by the armies of Alexander the Great, and continues down to the time when the Great War in Europe interrupted the orderly exports of cotton from the Southern States to European markets. The subjects which are dealt with at considerable length are the Industrial Revolution in England; the introduction of cotton cultivation in the United States and its effect in delaying the disappearance of slavery; the invention of the cotton gin; the influence of cotton culture in national politics; the effect of the Civil War upon the cotton trade; the cotton famine in Europe; the revival of cotton culture in the South by free labor; the development of the cotton manufacture in the South and the social problems which have arisen as a consequence, and the prospects of successful cotton growing elsewhere than in southern United States.

Some of the important conclusions reached by the author and which, while not beyond dispute, are supported by plausible arguments, are that Eli Whitney, while the inventor of the cotton gin, was not the inventor of the "saw gin"; that the South did not make the best use of its cotton resources as a means of obtaining revenue during the Civil War; that child labor in Southern cotton mills is less detrimental than it was in New England mills or than it is in department stores; that the Great

War has taught the Southern farmer the value of diversification of crops, and that cotton growing in California, in Egypt, and in other lands will probably become of sufficient importance in the near future to break the monopoly held by the South in the production of this staple.

Among the important subjects which it is surprising to find are not considered at sufficient length are the growth of the cotton-seed oil industry, the damage wrought by the boll-weevil and the efforts made to overcome this danger, and the increasing tendency to supplant negro labor by white labor in the cultivation of cotton.

If President Scherer's book be regarded not as an original piece of investigation in the field of economic history but as a useful summary of the researches of other writers who have dealt with the influence of cotton in the world's history, it can be warmly commended as a work interesting to read and fairly reliable in its facts and generalizations. There are some useful statistical appendixes, a handy bibliography, and a good index.

M. B. HAMMOND.

The Elements of International Law, with an Account of its Origin, Sources, and Historical Development. By GEORGE B. DAVIS. Fourth edition, revised by GORDON E. SHERMAN, formerly Assistant Professor of Comparative and International Law in Yale University. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1917. Pp. viii, 668. \$3.00.)

THIS volume is strictly what it purports to be, a revised edition of General Davis's work. He lived long enough to record the work of the two Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907, but not long enough to judge of its practical value. His third edition was published in 1908, before the adoption, *ad referendum*, of the Declaration of London. Professor Sherman prints in an appendix (H, pp. 604-620) the text of that paper, and a succinct and clear account of how far it has affected the pending European wars. Appendix I also gives our treaty of 1909 with the Dominican Republic.

It was, of course, desirable from the publishers' standpoint to make as few changes as might be, in the stereotype plates of the edition of 1908. It remains Davis's book. It remains a treatise in which the author writes as a military man, and gives special consideration to problems connected with war. This gives it a particular value at the present time.

Professor Sherman found it necessary to rewrite important parts of the first two chapters, which treat of the value and sources of international law and the nature of a political state. This he has done with discrimination and good judgment.

In printing the Declaration of London he has added notes, referring to the bearing of its dispositions on the present wars, as wrought